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Blue Mountain BSU makes trip to Brazil

By Larry "Chunk" Tubb
Senior, Blue Mountain College

On March 6-14 during Spring Break 1998, the Blue Mountain College (BMC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) traveled with a team of 16 people to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for a week of hard-core missions.

On March 7, the group arrived in Rio de Janeiro was greeted by pastor Tom Hearon and his family at the airport.

Hearon is serving in Brazil as a missionary. He and two other pastors planned the various ministry opportunities. From the airport, the team traveled to

First Baptist Church of Lins — the home church that sponsored the mission trip.

Pastor Octicilio, who is the pastor of the mission church, welcomed the team. After lunch, the team had a brief orientation, and then met the host families, most of whom spoke Portuguese. In most cases there was at least one

homes, the team went back to the church for a youth program that night. During the service, the BMC team performed a skit "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and Emily Pate shared her testimony through an interpreter.

After Larry Tubb shared a message in song entitled "Take Me To The Cross," John Maxey shared God's Word with the congregation.

On Sunday, the morning worship service began at 9 a.m. The music director led the congregation in songs, and then the praise band led in praise and worship.

Someone from the church shared his testimony, and sang a song entitled "Look." Everyone was then dismissed to go to Sunday School.

After Sunday School, the worship service began. The pastor at First Church was introduced. He was Pastor Ailton; he was not able to be there throughout the week because his wife was due to have their third child by Cæsarian section.

The team arrived in the favelas (slums) at the mission church at 3:30 p.m.

Ginger Loeffel, BMC BSU president, was in charge of the ministry in the mission church. There were approximately 75 children waiting for Vacation Bible School-like activities.

As the entire team will say,

person in the home who understood English.

After settling into the host

Boycott: success or bust?

ATLANTA (ABP) — About 30% of Southern Baptists said they are likely to observe their denomination's boycott of the Walt Disney Co., according to a poll conducted by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the University of North Carolina.

The poll showed widespread knowledge of the boycott. Nearly two-thirds of non-Southerners and three-fourths of Southerners said they had heard of some religious groups' dissatisfaction with Disney. Of those, however, 66% said it is unlikely they will participate in a boycott of Disney products.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said he was satisfied with those numbers. "The boycott is growing and continues to grow as more and more Baptists understand what's involved," he told the Atlanta newspaper.

"We're going to continue this," Land continued. "It's not one hydrogen bomb. It's a steady month-by-month artillery barrage."

Disney spokesperson John Dreyer told the Journal-Constitution the boycott has had little effect. "We just posted another record quarter," he said. "We had a record year last year. Our parks had record attendance for the holidays, and the Disney Channel has posted a gain of 5 million households."

Disney officials say the company does not discriminate against homosexuals and deny any anti-family agenda.



SOUTH OF THE BORDER — Persons involved in the March 6-14 Blue Mountain College mission trip to Brazil included: (sitting) Charissa Hearon, Kimberly Heron, Marcello; (first row) Tracy Moser, Laura Thompson, Michelle West, Amy Crocker, Anna Teel, Emily Pate, Solange Santos; (second row) Pastor Octicilio, Betty Simmons, Kenan Plunk, Renee Vines, Tracy Webb, Marcia de Oliveria, John Maxey; (third row) Sarah Skillman, Ginger Loeffel, and Jason Marlin. (BR special photo)

words can never express how God worked in the lives of the Brazilians, and in each of the team members' lives.

BMC BSU director Tracy Moser summed up the mission trip by saying, "God showed me again that when he calls, he enables in every way, whether it be financially, physically, spiritually, or emotionally."

"His grace was sufficient for our every need. Each step of the way was simply a confirmation of God's call and God's hand upon our work."

"The Lord truly delivered

me from my fears and proved that he had gone before us — Deuteronomy 31:8. Having the opportunity to work with Tom and Bonnie Hearon was an answered prayer.

"The way God provided for our every financial need was also an amazement."

"The youth group from Chalysbeate worked for us to go and serve; the mission fund at Calvary Church, Tupelo, sent help for us to go and serve."

"Also, family members and church members contributed to our financial needs."

Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Amory, celebrates 100 years of service to God. Joining pastor Jerry Massey at the celebration are former pastors Joe Causey (1956-1957), Dan Mortan (1958-1971), Larry Kennedy (1972-1978), and Jim Futral (1978-1981).

20 years ago

A proposed logo for the Southern Baptist Convention is to be recommended by the SBC Executive Committee and voted on at the convention in Atlanta. The design is chosen from 64 proposals submitted by 18 artists. If approved, use of the logo will be voluntary.

50 years ago

Tylertown and pastor Ray F. Dykes seem to be an ideal combination. Plans are being made for an educational building to take care of a growing Sunday School and for a new parsonage. The church has also adopted a plan for rotating deacons and six new deacons have been elected.

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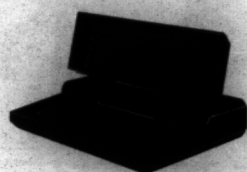
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LEADING THE WAY — Chaperones for the March 6-14 Blue Mountain College mission trip to Brazil included (from left) pastor Octicilio, and missionaries Bonnie and Tom Hearon. (BR special photo)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Approaching The Baptist Faith and Message

Make no mistake. The dark powers at work in America today understand that if they are to succeed in forcing the radical social changes they desire, the concept of the nuclear family must be destroyed. More to the point, they understand that the concept of the *Christian* nuclear family must be destroyed.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines the nuclear family thusly: "(A) family group that consists only of father, mother, and children." Apparently, that simple, one-line concept brings forth great distress among the elitists who consider themselves keepers of our culture — and even more so when the word "Christian" is attached to it.

How else to explain the vitriol spewing from popular media? Family-friendly television shows and movies are far between. News reporters are only too happy to brand people asking serious moral questions to be religious zealots and "homophobes" — that trendy, made-up word used to trash the sincere but politically-incorrect among us.

Hip magazines spotlight people living in direct contradiction of long-established mores, who must bring children into their perverse relationships through artificial means, so distant are they from

God's perfect plan for human procreation.

In light of all these twisted messages about God and family, it's easy to understand how lost people can get confused. What, exactly, should we be doing as Southern Baptists to ensure those lost people know exactly where we stand on the importance of Christian nuclear families?

We will have an opportunity to spotlight that issue at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 9-11 in Salt Lake City.

As detailed in the lead article on the

opposite page, a committee appointed by SBC President Tom Elliff will offer an amendment to The Baptist Faith and Message dealing with the role of families in Southern Baptist life.

The Baptist Faith and Message, while not meant to be creedal, is a landmark in Southern Baptist life. It is the document that virtually defines who we are and what we believe to be necessary to live every day in right relationship with our Heavenly Father.

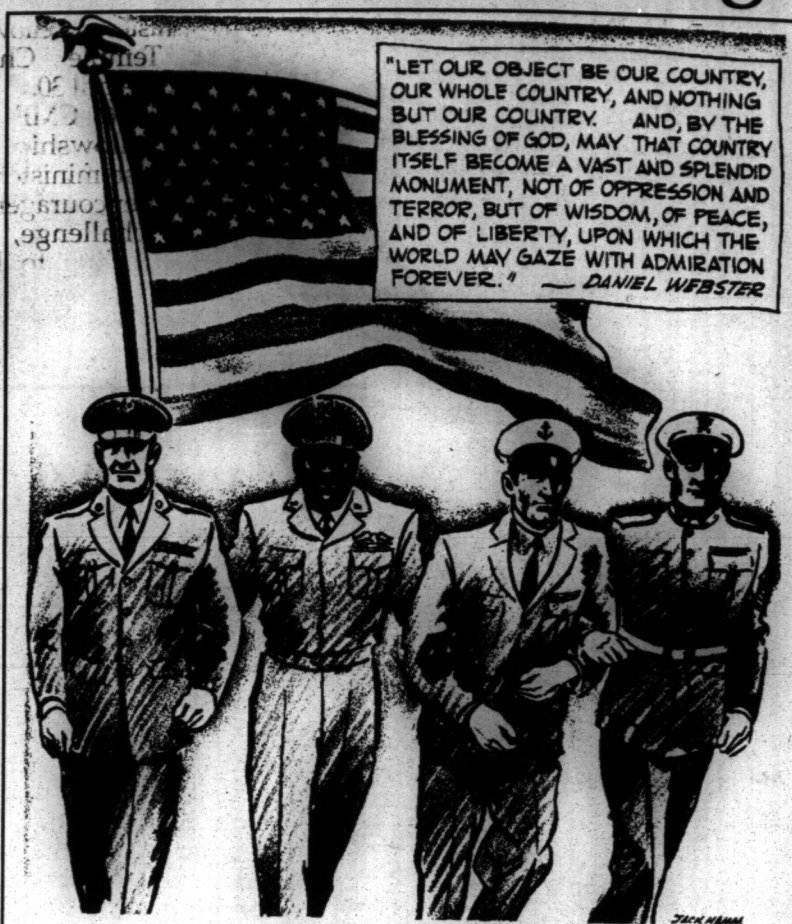
There is concern that amending The Baptist Faith and Message may become an annual routine to allow people to codify their pet issues.

There is also concern that the committee appointed by Elliff was too small and too packed with SBC "insiders."

When one considers the committee included, among others, Elliff's brother and the wives of two seminary presidents identified with the conservative resurgence that also elected Elliff — frankly, the committee makeup could have been more expansive.

Nevertheless, the time may well have come to speak to America with one voice on the issue of family. The opportunity to debate the issue is certainly upon us.

Let us approach The Baptist Faith and Message with the respect it deserves. Let us be in prayer, as deeply as were the



MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 25, 1998

Spirit-filled original designers of this hallowed document. Let us be open to the will of God, putting away our own childish thoughts and motivations.

As always, a lost world will be watching — not only the outcome but also whether we treat each other as the children of the Savior we profess.

If that's not enough to drop you to your knees in prayer, what will?

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



*Fix the problem,
not the blame!*

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

In the 1950s, the leading behavioral problems cited by school teachers were talking, chewing gum, running in the hall, getting out of line, and stuff like that.

Today, the top problems are murder, assault, robbery, drugs and the like. The behavior of children has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. Why?

Perhaps it is because of the dissolving of families. Maybe it is because Dr. Spock has been replaced by Dr. Ruth.

Could it be that a million hours of television viewing have made little girls want to look like Madonna and little boys to talk like gang members, and all of them to act like talk-show guests?

Far be it from me to be one of those hand-wringing worriers who are convinced the world is going down the drain. I try to be a positive person. There is still a lot of good will in people and an abundance of joy in life to be discovered.

Not all the world is going to pot, of that I am certain. Yet, things have changed!

I talked to a young man from Japan a few months ago, and he made an observation about the difference between life in America and life in Japan.

In America, he said, when something goes wrong, every-

one scurries about trying to cover themselves. The reason for this is simple.

In America, when something goes wrong, the primary concern is to fix the blame. Since no one wants to be blamed, people start finger-pointing. Co-workers will stab one another in the back. Everyone finds an excuse.

Not so in Japan, he said. When there is a problem in Japan, the responsible party always steps forward. Why? Because in Japan, the primary concern is to fix the problem, not the blame!

Therefore, let me be one to step forward and say, "I am to blame." Why me? Because I have sinned. Not just once, but on numerous occasions. Odds are, I will sin again.

What's wrong with the world is the simple fact that people commit sins. Accepting responsibility for that is the

first step toward making the world a better place.

I can step forward and accept my share of the guilt without fear because of a life-changing spiritual truth: God is more concerned with fixing the problem than he is fixing the blame.

That is why he sent his Son to die on the cross. Since our share of the blame is taken care of, all we have to do is work on making things better.

My wife and I were up late one night talking about how good life has been and how blessed we are.

That is not to say we don't have problems. We are as rushed and stressed as anyone I know, even more so. Yet, life has been good to us.

As we talked, I came to a realization that has remained with me for some time now. Perhaps life is so good to us because of the way we face it.

In reality, I am a simple man. I have made a few commitments and I follow them.

I have made a faith commitment to God through Jesus Christ. I have made a love commitment to my wife and children. I have made a vocational commitment to my work.

Essentially, that is it. All of my life can be summed up in these three commitments.

Not that I am the example of how the world's problems can be solved, but I do think perhaps this is a clue as to how God can fix our problems — one life at a time.

This may sound a bit strange, and you may be disappointed in this conclusion, but I really believe that one of the best things I can do with my life is not write the best column, or preach the finest sermon, but rather, keep these three simple commitments the best I can.

Yes, the world has changed. It has grown somewhat darker and bit more dangerous this year. I am partly to blame for that. God wants to fix this in your life and in mine.

Join me if you believe, like I do, in dedication to a more simple life style. God will change the world one person and one family at a time, through commitments we make to one another and to him.

Ministers meet to fight isolation and loneliness

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

"Isolation is your enemy," said Neil Knierim of the pastoral ministries department at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB).

Knierim was speaking to the Koinonia Conference for Ministers sponsored by The

Covenant Ministerial Fellowship (CMF) at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, on April 30.

Begun in 1996, CMF is "a volunteer fellowship of Southern Baptist ministers for the purpose of encouragement, enrichment, challenge, and worship," according to Perry Sanderford, a certified Christian Marriage and Family

counselor in Brandon and a CMF founder.

The Hattiesburg conference was the second regional meeting CMF has held. A Gulf Coast Call to Koinonia conference is scheduled for Aug. 31.

H. B. London with Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Co., will be the featured speaker. A location will be announced later.

The purpose for the Koinonia conferences is to create and support local opportunities for continued vocational development for ministers, Sanderford said.

Each meeting includes times of worship, speakers, small group discussions, testimonies, and a panel discussion.

Knierim pointed out that isolation and loneliness are two of the biggest issues faced by ministers.

"Some ministers have tapes playing in their heads that say, 'Because I'm a minister all I need is God.' This is a setup for trouble," he said.

Sanderford indicated that CMF was organized to help ministers overcome these kinds of issues.

"Look around. We are brothers and we are in this thing together. We need to be loving each other," Sanderford said.

"We act like individual commandos too often. We are part of an army," he added.

CMF helps organize local ministerial support groups, in addition to providing various conference and educational events during the year.

At the heart of the CMF strategy is a ministerial code of ethics that each member is asked to sign. In addition, each minister who joins is asked to find an accountability partner.

Ministers interested in joining a support group or seeking more information can contact CMF at P. O. Box 5301, Brandon, MS 39047. Telephone: (601) 992-3768.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE



Sunday School Board staffer Neil Knierim (left) talks with John Coleman (right), pastor of Athens Church, Simpson Association, at the April 30 Covenant Ministerial Fellowship meeting in Hattiesburg.

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BF&M addition to be proposed at SBC

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP & ABP) — A special committee studying a possible addition to the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M) document will call for an addition to the 35-year-old BF&M emphasizing the marriage relationship models the way God relates to his people.

Messengers to the 1998 annual meeting in Salt Lake City June 9-11 will vote on the committee's proposal.

The seven-member committee was appointed by SBC President Tom Elliff in response to a request from a Maryland messenger at last year's SBC annual meeting.

Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and chairman of the committee, said the proposed addition is "thoroughly biblical."

"The BF&M has not been amended since 1963 when the inimitable Herschel H. Hobbs led the effort to develop a statement of faith for Southern Baptists," Jordan told Baptist Press. "The BF&M has stood the test of time as the clear declaration of our faith."

"The assignment to produce a concise, clear statement that expresses the generally held beliefs of Southern Baptists concerning family was a daunting one. Therefore, our committee approached its responsibility with prayer, reverence, and diligence."

Jordan said every line of the proposed addition is deeply rooted in the clear teaching of Scripture.

"Its language is theological and thus in keeping with the language of the original document. We sought to use words and phrases that would carry the same timelessness as the Hobbs statement. Our proposed article is stated in the positive. We attempted to declare what we believe rather than describe what we are against. Again, the original statement of faith follows this pattern," Jordan said.

The proposed addition calls marriage the "uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime ... God's unique gift to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework

for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race."

The committee will also present a commentary on the article. Calling it "helpful," Jordan said the commentary expands and provides a strong foundation for the article.

"While the family statement stands firmly on its own, we believe the commentary enhances understanding. The commentary will be a useful tool for those outside our faith who seek to comprehend Baptist beliefs regarding family," Jordan said.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., who is finishing a second one-year term as SBC president, said in naming the committee, "that while the BF&M is not a creed, it is an extremely important document to Southern Baptists. We make additions only with prayerful consideration and study."

In addition to Jordan, other members of the committee are: O.D. "Damon" Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church, Houston; Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, SBC; Mary Mohler, wife of Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler, Louisville, Ky.; Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, Ark.; John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention; and Dorothy Patterson, wife of Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson, Wake Forest, N.C.

"They forgot Jesus," said Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, Tenn.

"A Christian definition of family should be grounded in Jesus' definition of family," Parham said. "Jesus defined family first in terms of loyalty to God, not blood ties."

Parham cited Luke 8:19-21, where Jesus, when told his mother and brothers were waiting outside to see him, responded, "My mother and my brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Parham said Jesus "emphasized family turned God-ward, not inward." Jesus

spoke "against the self-centered family," Parham said, when in Matt. 20:20-23 he rebuked the mother of James and John for wanting to see her sons seated on his left and right.

Jesus spoke "for the outwardly focused family" in Luke 11:27-28, Parham said, where a woman utters a blessing for Jesus' mother and he replies, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it."

"The statement forgot Jesus and made June Cleaver a biblical model for motherhood," Parham said.

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE PROPOSED ADDITION ON FAMILY

"God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

"Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

"The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

"A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family.

"A wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being 'in the image of God' as her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his 'helper' in managing her household and nurturing the next generation.

"Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents."

Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Josh. 24:15; 1 Sam. 1:26-28; Ps. 78: 1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Prov. 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Eccl. 4:9-12; 9:9; Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:14; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

Trinity Church receives 10th Eagle Award

Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Trinity Church, Southaven, was recently given the Eagle Award from the Sunday School Board (SSB) of the Southern Baptist Convention for significant growth in Sunday School during the last part of 1997.

The Eagle Award is the only award given by SSB to churches. The Eagle is recognition for achieving growth through the use of the Growth Spiral.

To earn an Eagle, a church must have a net enrollment gain of 182, at least 10 additional teaching units, and at least 20 new Sunday School workers added. In addition, a church

must maintain these statistics for at least 6 months.

This is the tenth Eagle Award presented to Trinity Church since its founding in 1990. Trinity is only the second church in Mississippi to ever receive multiple Eagle Awards.

According to John Miller, minister of education at Trinity, the church was founded in 1990 by the merger of three churches: Labelle Place Church and Trinity Church of Memphis, and Trinity South Church of Horn Lake, Miss.

The combined church began with less than 300 in Sunday School. In March 1998, Trinity averaged 1,546 in Sunday School. They are currently constructing a 2,700 seat sanctuary. The target for occupancy is Easter of 1999.

Pastor Jim Butler believes in the primacy of Sunday School. "I have told my people that if they only have one hour to give to church each week, give it to Sunday School."

This emphasis on Sunday School from the pastor is reflected in Trinity's remarkable record of growth, and by the fact they were asked to be one of training churches for the SSB FAITH program.

"FAITH is an evangelistic program that focuses on the Sunday School as the primary evangelistic arm of the church," according to Brett Burleson,

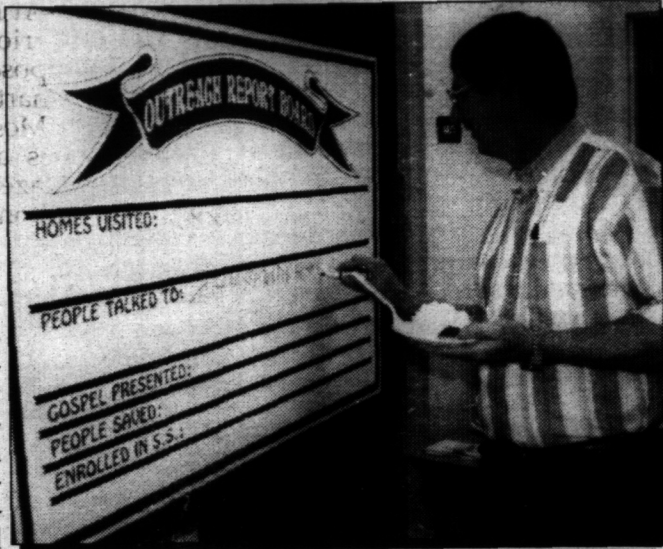
minister of evangelism and assimilation at Trinity.

"During a 15 week process, participants learn the FAITH evangelistic presentation, develop two testimonies—a Sunday School testimony and a personal salvation testimony—and complete readings, Bible study and journal writings," Burleson said.

FAITH visits are made to Sunday School prospects. Young adults visit other young adults. Children Sunday School workers visit children and their parents, Burleson indicated.

"We 'unarm' them with the Sunday School testimony, then proceed to witness to them," he said.

Since starting FAITH 11 weeks ago, Trinity has seen 36 baptisms, a 30% increase over the previous two months, and 164 new Sunday School mem-



REGISTERING ADULTS—Bill Sowell, member of Trinity Church, Southaven, records his team's Monday night visits on the Outreach Report Board. Each Monday night, between 120 and 150 people go visiting, including 55 FAITH participants, according to Brett Burleson, minister of evangelism and assimilating at Trinity. (Photo by Carl M. White)

bers, compared to 91 in the prior two months, according to Miller.

For more information about the Eagle Award, Sunday School work, or FAITH, contact David Wills, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



TENTH EAGLE AWARD—David Wills (right), director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presents the 10th Eagle Award for Sunday School to Jim Butler (center), pastor and John Miller (left), minister of education, at Trinity Church, Southaven. Trinity Church was organized in 1990 with an average in Sunday School of 200. In March 1998, Sunday School average attendance was 1,546. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Garaywa holds sweet memories for SBC exec

By Morris H. Chapman
President, SBC Executive Committee

My first and only week at Camp Garaywa changed my life! When I was twelve years old, along with other boys from First Church, Kosciusko, I attended Royal Ambassador camp.

The week was filled with meeting new friends and having lots of fun. However, the greatest moment for me came on the last night of the camp.

When the preacher for the week concluded his sermon, he gave an invitation. Included in the invitation was the appeal for any one sensing God's call into vocational

Christian service to come forward. As we began singing the invitational hymn, I was well aware God was speaking to me, not audibly, but certainly "loud" enough I could hear him.

I was convinced God was calling me to surrender my will to his will and follow him wherever he may lead.

I "walked the aisle" and at the altar was met by a man who spoke with me briefly and escorted me into a small side room where other young men were being counseled.

First he was careful to be certain I had accepted Christ. (I was saved at the age of seven while my family lived in Laurel, and my parents were members of First Church).

I noticed he had a card in hand. He began filling it out asking me for information such as my hometown, address, and church which I attended.

After completing much of the information requested on the card, he asked, "What is God calling you to do?"

The question caught me off guard because I had not even thought about "what." All I knew was that God had called me, and I had answered, "I will."

Seeing that I was struggling with the "what" of the question, he said, "Son, I have several little boxes on the card with a listing of several vocations to which God may be calling you."

His next question was, "Is God calling to be a pastor of a church?" I responded, "No sir! I could never preach in front of so many people every Sunday."

He asked if God was calling me to be a minister of education." My quick reply was, "If I ever finish high school, I am finished with education!"

(By God's grace, years later I received a doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth).

Next he asked, "Is God calling you to be a minister of music?" For a few years in elementary school and junior high, at the insistence of my mother, I had taken piano lessons, but it was very clear to me I was not destined to "lead the singing."

By this time, I could see the counselor was growing just a little worried that he might run out of boxes on the card!

With great expectation, he asked, "Is God calling you to be a missionary?" When I was growing up, it seemed that Africa was synonymous with missions, and I thought surely God would not send me to the jun-

gles of Africa among the lions and tigers!"

(Over the years, I have traveled to Africa on a number of occasions. I have found it to be a beautiful continent filled with wonderfully happy people who often respond readily to the Gospel. Had God called me, it would have been an awesome privilege to have lived and ministered in that vast land).

I responded, "No sir!"

In absolute frustration the counselor said, "Son, I have only one more box on this card which may be checked."

I asked, "What is it?"

He said, "Other!"

I said, "Check it!"

I shall never forget that night at Camp Garaywa when, as a twelve-year-old boy, I gave my life to being "other" for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Since that night, God has continued to confirm my calling.

All through the years, I have had the joy of serving him as a preacher of the Gospel.

I never could have dreamed the wonderful blessings God had in store for me, a boy from Kosciusko who simply said "yes" to being "other" for Jesus' sake.

While the journey has not been easy always, time and again God has supplied all my needs "according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

Camp Garaywa, now Mississippi's Girls in Action state campground, has been instrumental in the lives of thousands of Mississippi boys, girls, and adults. For more information on the "Hand in Hand, Garaywa Expands" program, contact Mississippi Woman's Union at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Families watch, pray as Indonesia ignites

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptist families in Indonesia May 15 were prayerfully watching developments during a fourth day of rioting in the capital city of Jakarta.

They were considering whether to evacuate with other American business and diplomatic personnel, a spokesman for the families said.

"They have the option to leave, and members of two or three families were to leave Friday evening (May 15)," the spokesman said. "We have been monitoring the situation for several weeks, and if events reach a certain level we will tell them to leave."

"At this point everybody understands they are free to do what they believe is best. Most of the families have not decided to take the option yet."

Telephone lines have remained open, and Southern Baptist workers based in Singapore have been able to keep in touch with families in Indonesia.

"All of the people we relate to in Indonesia are accounted for and OK," the spokesman said.

At least 250 people were reported dead in riots protesting austerity measures imposed by the government of President Suharto, according to the Associated Press.

Most of the dead were looters caught in fires at four Jakarta shopping malls set ablaze by other rioters.

Longtime Indonesian President Suharto is clinging tenuously to power and has ordered military forces into the streets.

On Friday, the U.S. State Department advised Americans to leave Jakarta and Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city.

The State Department chartered two airplanes to evacuate Americans unable to secure commercial flights from Jakarta.

American corporations like Mobil, Citicorp, and McDonald's were pulling their employees out en masse.

An intercessory prayer leader encouraged Southern Baptists to pray not only for Southern Baptists living in Indonesia, but also for the people of the country, which is the world's largest Muslim nation.

"Many Indonesians have lost their lives, and we need to lift this country to God for his gracious care," said Randy Sprinkle of

the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's intercessory prayer program.

"Pray that God would bring an end to the violence and work these situations together to bring great good for his kingdom."

"Ask God to use this crisis to help people realize their spiritual emptiness, and pray that believers would not be intimidated but instead would boldly witness to their neighbors and friends about their need for Christ."



Mississippians nominated for SBC trustee posts

Following is a list of Mississippi nominees and seated trustees for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agency and institutional boards, as well as committee appointments. Nominees will be presented for approval to messengers attending the SBC annual meeting June 9-11 in Salt Lake City, Utah. (Sources: Baptist Press, 1997 SBC Annual, and local reports.)

SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Clark Stewart, pastor, Harmony Church, Crystal Springs; Nominated for term to expire in 2002.

Reuel May Jr., Jackson physician; member, First Church, Jackson; Term expires 2001.

James R. Futral, pastor, Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Term expires 2000.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

Billy Joe Beckett, retired pastor, Columbus; Nominated for second term to expire in 2002.

Robert M. Williamson, pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon; Term expires 2000.

Frank Gunn, pastor, First Church, Biloxi; Term expires 1999.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

Richard Powell, pastor, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; Nominated for term to expire in 2002.

Joe Strahan, interim pastor, Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg; Nominated for term to expire in 2002.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Gus Q. Merritt, retired pastor, Decatur; Nominated for second term to expire in 2002.

Linda Barfield, Hattiesburg teacher; member, Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. Term expires 2001.

Bernie Brooks, Ellisville businessman; member, West Ellisville Church, Ellisville. Term expires 2001.

ANNUITY BOARD

Frank Harmon, pastor, First Church, Newton. Term expires 2000.

T. Jack Colvin, Jackson businessman; member, First Church, Jackson. Term expires 1999.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Thomas M. Atwood, pastor, First Church, Oxford; Nominated for second term to expire in 2003.

J. D. Cutrer, retired businessman, Baldwin; member, First Church, Baldwin. Term expires 2001.

Odean W. Puckett, retired pastor, Madison; Term expires 2000.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Dwight L. Smith, pastor, West Ellisville Church, Ellisville; Term expires 2001.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY

Gary R. Peek, Pascagoula businessman; member of Four Mile Creek Church, Pascagoula; Term expires 2003.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY

Jerry Adkins, Biloxi surgeon; member, First Church, Biloxi. Term expires 2002.

William H. Hanberry, Hattiesburg businessman; member, South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg; Term expires 2001.

Albert H. McMullen, retired pastor, Stonewall; Term expires 2001.

James W. Street, pastor, Calvary Church, Jackson; Term expires 2001.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY

Billy Brumfield, pastor, Immanuel Church, Vicksburg; Nominated for second term to expire in 2003.

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

Paul D. Walley, Richton attorney; member of First Church, Richton; Nominated for second term to expire in 2002.

1998 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

(All terms expire 1998)

Lynn Caine, member of First Church, Jackson.

Robert Netterville, pastor, Walker Hill Church, Brandon.

1998 SBC ANNUAL MEETING

June 9-11 — Salt Lake City, Utah

(all terms expire 1998)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Clark Stewart, pastor, Harmony Church, Crystal Springs.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Daryl Oster, pastor, Zion Hill Church, Brookhaven.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Thomas Otto Brill Jr., pastor, Four Mile Creek Church, Pascagoula.

John Simmons, Plantersville businessman; member, East Heights Church, Tupelo.

Vessels

A new issue of Vessels, a video magazine about Mississippi Baptists, is due to be released the week of May 25. The 25 minute long video, hosted by Roland and Lisa Leavell, members of First Church, Jackson, features five segments about how Mississippi Baptists are bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

The first segment takes viewers to Lee County to experience mission work at a flea market, two trailer parks, and an apartment complex.

The second segment features interviews of couples whose lives were enriched at a marriage enrichment conference.

Segment three tells the story of Leigh Chau, a young Vietnamese woman touched by a ministry to international students in Starkville, who is to become a two-year journeyman volunteer in Taiwan.

The fourth segment tells of the growing Hispanic ministry in Scott County.

The final segment takes a peek at a celebration of worship that took place in January at the Mississippi Coliseum. "God With Us" was presented by a 2,000 voice choir and a 140-piece orchestra.

For more information about Vessels or to order a copy, contact the Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Vacation Bible Schools scheduled

Kolola Springs, Caledonia: June 8-12; 8:30 a.m.-12 noon; preschool through 6th grade; call (601) 356-6037 for more information.

Bayou View, Gulfport: June 8-12; 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon; 3 years old-6th grade; kickoff on June 7 at 5 p.m.; for more information, call (601) 863-2482.

Randall Harris of Petal, assistant professor of biology at William Carey College, will contribute two articles to the "Encyclopedia of Genetics,"

published by Salem Press of Pasadena, Calif. One article is entitled "Lethal alleles," and the other article is the Glossary for the encyclopedia.

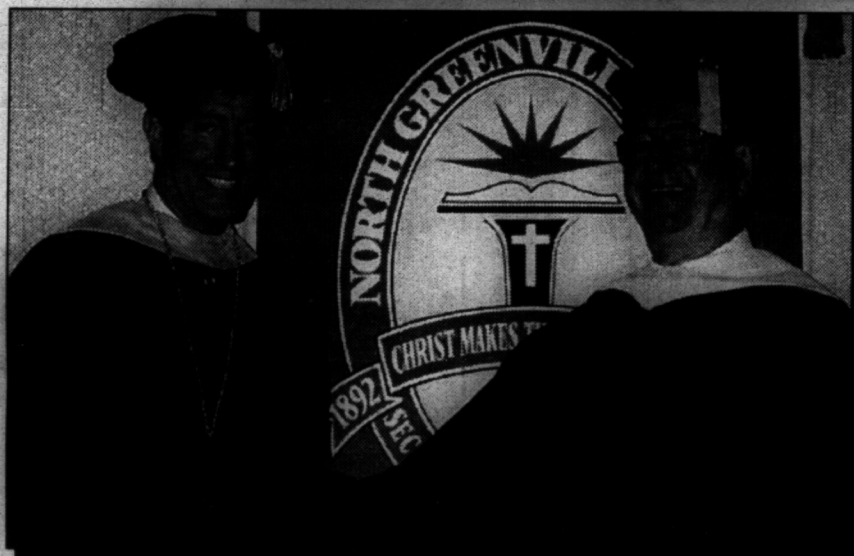


Jason Coker (left) of New Augusta received the J. E. Byrd Memorial Award for Outstanding Religion Major during William Carey College's annual Honors Day ceremony. Coker was recently accepted at Yale University Theological School. **Dorman Laird**, professor of religion, presented the award.



During the annual Honors Day ceremony at William Carey College (WCC) state Senator **Ron Farris** (left) recognized **Dan Browning** of Hattiesburg, associate professor of religion, as WCC's HEADWAE faculty member.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Leon Emery of Jackson received a honorary doctorate of divinity degree at North Greenville College, Tigerville, S. C., during the May 7 commencement ceremonies. Emery, a native of Tigerville, is a graduate of North Greenville Junior College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His ministry, which has spanned 48 years, has included several pastorates, state work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and is currently serving as director of missions for Franklin Association. Emery and his wife, the former Jessie Plumley, have two children, Sharon Harden of Vicksburg and Ronnie Emery of Jackson, and four grandchildren. Pictured with Emery is Jimmy Epting, president.

Bill Barton, pastor of Wade Church, Jackson Association, and his wife Jean will be honored, from 2-4 p.m., on May 31 in fellowship hall. They will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage and 50 years in the ministry. He established and was director of the Home of Grace in Vancleave for 30 years. The Bartons graduated from the Toccoa Falls Bible College, Toccoa, Ga., 50 years ago on May 31 and were married the same day.

Anita S. Vaughn has been named as the administrator of the new Women's Hospital, which is part of the \$300 million expansion project at the Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Memphis, Tenn. The appointment, which will make Vaughn responsible for planning a state-of-the-art hospital facility to serve the total health care needs of women, became effective on May 3. Vaughn is a graduate of Memphis State University and Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, now known as Baptist College of Health Services.



Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and music director at the First United Methodist Church in Ripley. **Anita Ludlow**, a native of Pontotoc, is music director at the Ripley Presbyterian Church.

James P. Fancher will celebrate 50 years in the ministry. He has served as pastor of nine Mississippi churches, full-time evangelist for 10 years, associate director of Evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and interim pastor in a number of churches. An Appreciation Celebration for Fancher and his wife Ewilda will be held on May 31 at 6 p.m. at First Church, Florence. A reception will be held following the service. Their address is P. O. Box 428, Florence, MS 39073.

HOMEcomings

Concord, Meadville: May 24; services start at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds with afternoon service at 1:15 p.m.; **Hubert Whitten**, guest speaker.

Thorn Hill, Pelahatchie: May 31; services start at 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; gospel singing featuring **Obadiah**, 1 p.m.; **Scott Walters**, pastor.

Union, Tylertown: June 7; services, 11 a.m. and covered dish luncheon at noon; **Douglas Lee**, guest speaker; **Sara and Rebecca Graves**, special music; **Mike Sutton**, pastor.

Roundaway (Sunflower): May 24; Memorial Day ser-

vices; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; 1:15 p.m., mini-concert by **Ellis-Walker** sisters; layman and former member, **Todd Mixon**, special guest; **Eddie and Jana Donahoe**, music; **Gayden Harrell**, pastor.

Friendship, Brookhaven: May 31; morning services; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon service at 1 p.m.; **Howard Smith**, St. Joseph, La., guest speaker; **Jimmy Houston**, pastor.

Mt. Olive (Carroll): May 31; 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; **Tommy Williamson**, pastor, will bring the morning message; singing in the afternoon.

Ed Ludlow, who is on the music faculty of Blue Mountain College, and his wife **Anita**, will be presented in an organ recital by the Christ Church Episcopal music ministry on May 31. The 3 p.m. program is one of a series of events designed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church's Pilcher pipe organ. **Ed Ludlow**, a native of Miami, Fla., is a keyboard specialist with the

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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 21, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

SMALLER MEMBERSHIP CHURCH Pastor's Conference

featuring

Barry Campbell
Pastor - Staff
Leadership Dept.
Sunday School Board

Matt Buckles
Church Administration
Pastoral Ministries Dept.
MBCB

JUNE 5 & 6, 1998
Friendship Baptist Church,
Pontotoc
June 5th, 6:30 pm
(supper provided 6:30 to 7 pm)
June 6th, 8:00 - 12 noon
(breakfast provided 8 to 8:30 am)

AUGUST 29, 1998
Goodwater Baptist Church,
Magee
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(lunch provided)

Please clip and return to: Matt Buckles, CAPM Dept., P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
CHURCH: _____ ASSOC.: _____
PHONE (church/work): _____ (home): _____

☐ I will attend JUNE 5 - 6 in Pontotoc ☐ I will attend AUGUST 29 in Magee

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"
A Ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Small in
numbers,
but not
small
potatoes!

TOPICS

- Preaching
- Worship Planning
- Pastoral Skills
- Planning and Guiding
- Resources
- BIVO Ministers Track
- Strengths & Weaknesses
- "Surviving & Thriving"
- Outreach Strategies
- Developing Leaders

Jesus On Leadership

A Conference for Sunday School Directors
and Discipleship Training Directors

August 11, 1998, at Golden Triangle Baptist Association
Office Building, Columbus

August 13, 1998, at Poplar Springs Drive Baptist
Church, Meridian

Time: 6-9 p.m.

"A conference especially designed for Sunday School and Discipleship
Training Directors. We will focus on what we can learn about leadership
by looking at the life of Jesus."

author of *Jesus On Leadership*

Speaker:
Gene Wilkes





Jennifer Adams
Mississippi State
California



Patrick Alexander
Mississippi State
Colorado



Michael Alfred
Mississippi College
Pacific Northwest



Angela Anglin
Northeast
Oklahoma



Crystel Bailey
Mississippi State
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Heath Bell
Northeast
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Erin Black
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Montana



Katie Boren
Delta State
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Tabetha Bowles
Northwest
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WCC
Nevada



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Blue Mountain
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Laura Brown
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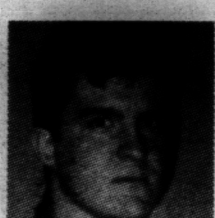
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Dara Callendar
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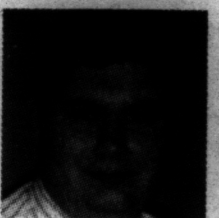
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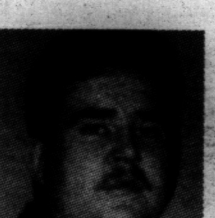
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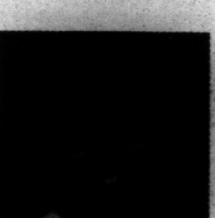
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Jennifer Cottrell
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Christina Crawford
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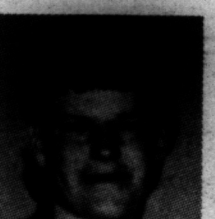
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Hinds
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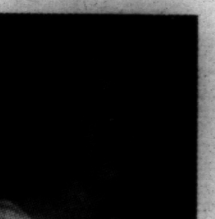
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Ticia Dixon
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Kathy Evans
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Hope Fairchild
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Josh Fortier
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Cassidy Ganas
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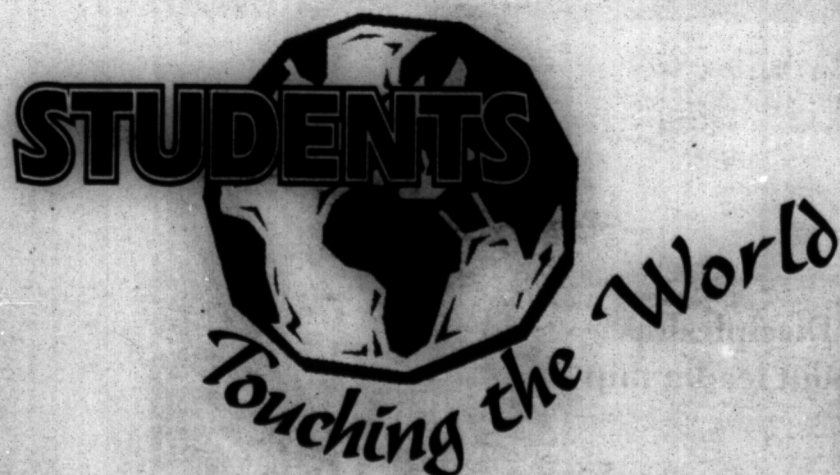
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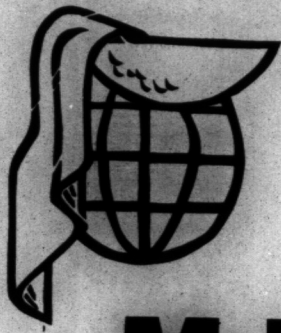
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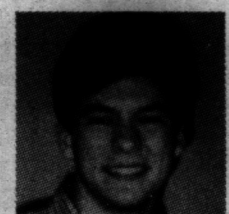
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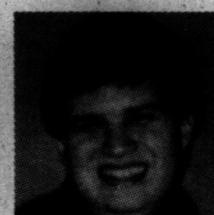
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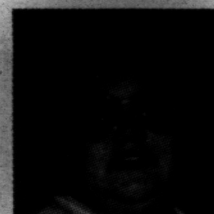
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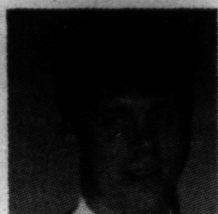
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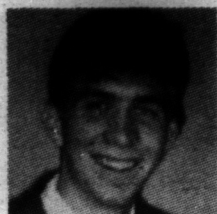
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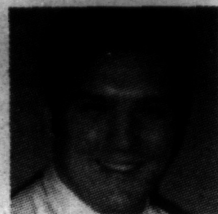
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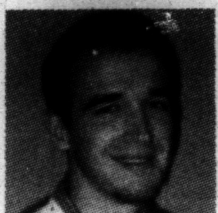
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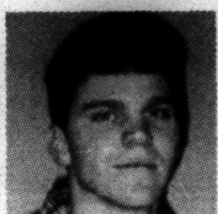
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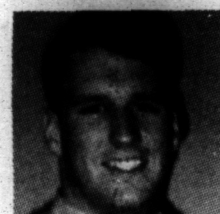
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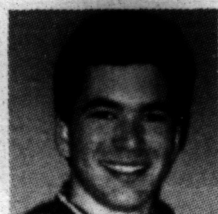
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Peter Swann
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Paige Sylvester
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Claire Thacker
WCC
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Laura Thompson
Blue Mountain
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Maria Titus
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Mandy Trammell
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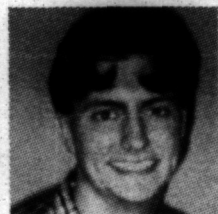
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Josh Walker
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Devin Walsh
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LeAnn Weaver
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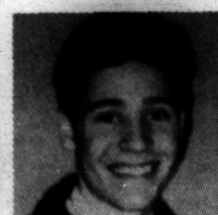
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Cory Wilson
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Hayley Wolfe
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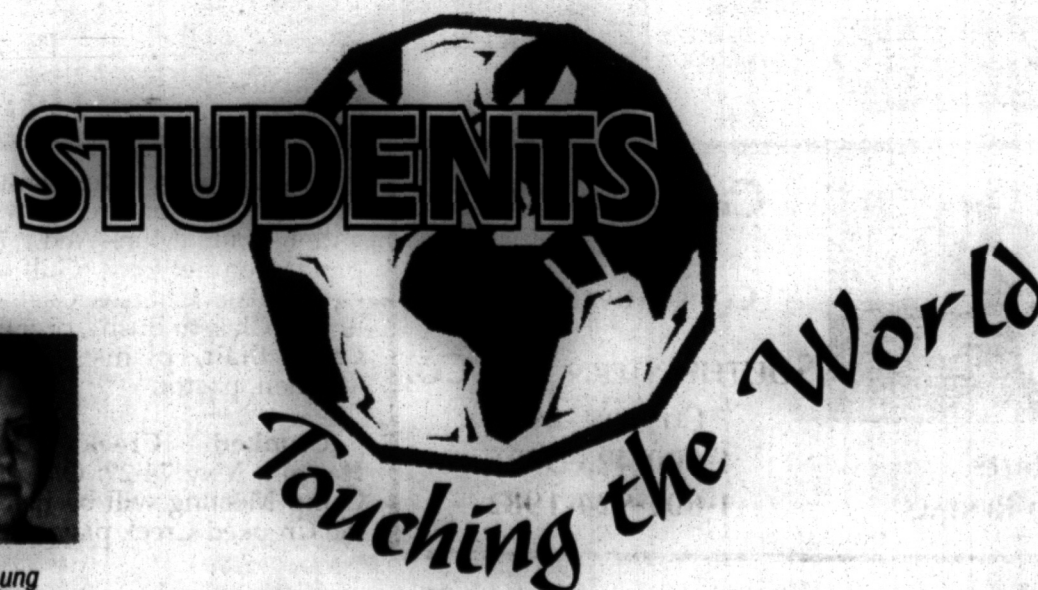
Jessica Woodard
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Jonathan Woodward
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Chris Young
Pearl River
Iowa



JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Indianola, recently held a first and second grade GA recognition service. GAs were awarded their world ventures charm bracelets. Leaders are Tami Harrell and Lyn Hubbard. Pictured, back row, are Holly Dill, Ann Shelby Adams, Olivia Barrett, Jennifer Sykes, Cassandra Crawford, Anna Claire Sykes, Hannah-Ruth Harrell, Mary Clyde Barrett; front row, Lanna-Lipe Burkhalter, BreAnn Green, Hannah Joe Skelton, and Krislee Crawford. Greg Bowers is pastor.

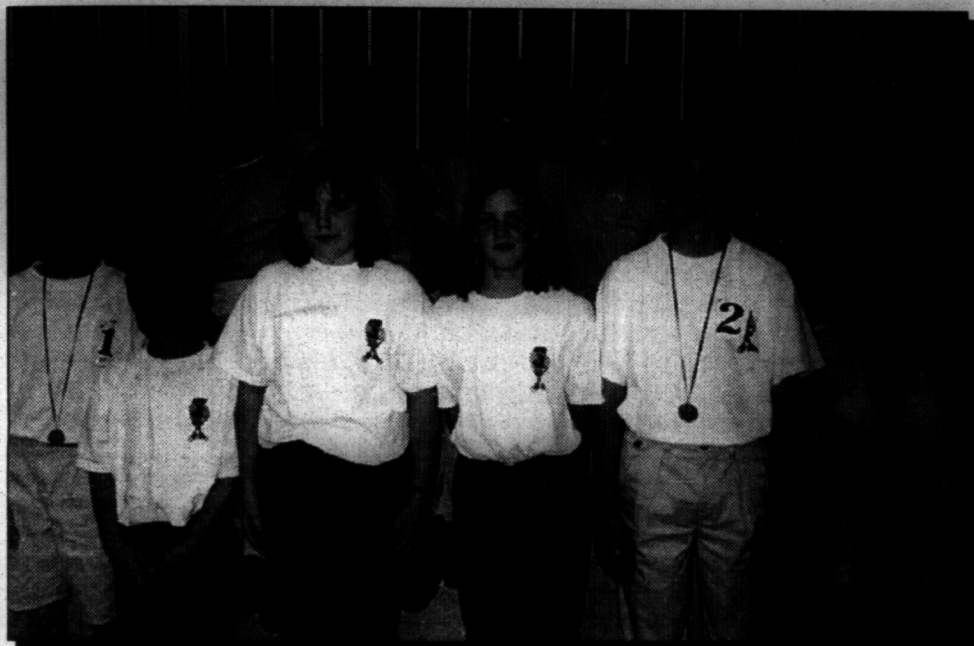
Roxie Church, Roxie, will dedicate its new Family Life Center on May 24. The church began construction in 1996. The building consist of a fellowship hall, prophet room area, game room, and a gym. The \$250,000 building was completed debt free. Activities for the day will include Sunday School, 11 a.m.; worship; a noon meal; and a praise celebration at 1:30 p.m.



David Robinson, deacon from Mt. Vernon Church, Tishomingo Association, presented Bobby Cobb, director of missions, with a \$1,000 check for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The youth and adults with the help of the Southern Style Restaurant, sold chicken and fish plates to help raise money. A profit of \$2,000 was received and divided between the home mission offering and the youth groups. Billy P. Feltman is pastor.



Recipients for perfect attendance in Sunday School at Algoma Church, Algoma, are as follows: (from left) first row, Sue Barlow, 14 years; Teresa Arnold, 2 years; Tyler Arnold, 2 years; second row, Brenda Seale, 3 years; Kourtney Barlow, 14 years; Landis Fair, 6 years; Weezie Corder, 2 years; third row, Brooks Corder, 7 years; Scott Foster, 3 years; and Jake Arnold, 4 years. Don Smith is pastor.



Children and Youth from Concord Church, Yazoo County, recently participated in the State Bible Drill competition in Starkville. Children's drill (from left) front row, were Daniel Perry, Wes Durden, Lindsay Adams, Kimberly Cotton, and Baine Davis; youth drill, back row, were Chris Cotton, Colby Davis, Neil Kirk, Rachel Perry, Dena Bates, Tosha Durden, and Angie Chapman. This was Chapman's ninth and final year to participate in the drills.

Leaf River Church, Smith County, will have high attendance for Sunday School on June 7 at 10 a.m. Dinner will be served following the worship service. Also, the regular annual meeting for the Cemetery Association will be that same day beginning at 2 p.m. Dan Perry is pastor.



Ground breaking services for an education building at a cost of \$160,000 were held on April 19 at Robinwood Church, Saucier. Pictured (from left) are Marvin Dearchs, chairman, finance and deacons; Tom Larkowski, chairman, building committee; Bobby C. Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association; Bobby Wedgeworth, pastor; and Ralph Scott, chairman, challenge to build program.

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Baptist Health Systems, Jackson, will hold its first-ever "Breath of Life" seminar on May 28. During this free event, to be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Primos Northgate Conference Center, people with lung problems can learn ways to improve their lung health. To register, or find out more, call the Baptist Healthcare Line at 948-6262 or 1-800-948-6262.

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, will honor their graduating seniors for 1998 with a Baccalaureate service on May 24 at 10:45 a.m. The church is located at 4709 Chamberlain Avenue.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 10th anniversary and give special emphasis to the senior adults with a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall,

May 31. The morning message will be brought by Robert Perry, interim pastor. James Netherland, music director, will have charge of the music.

REVIVALS

Main Street, Mendenhall: May 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Charlie Case Jr., music; Christy Busby, organist; Carol Blair, pianist; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor.

Crooked Creek, New Hebron: May 24-29; Old Time Camp Meeting will be held at the Crooked Creek playground

under the pavilion; services begin Sunday at 10 a.m. followed by covered dish meal; different speakers each night; Darrell Daniels, pastor.

First, Stonewall, held a revival April 22-26. Seven professions of faith were made. David Nelson, Little Rock, evangelist; C. C. Burns, Enterprise, music; Mike Powell, pastor.

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ALL SIZES
 SALES AND RENTALS

Reconciliation service slated for May 25

A Christian worship service promoting racial reconciliation will take place at 7 p.m. on May 25 at Mt. Zion Community Church on Baldwin-Ripley Road in Baldwin.

The service will feature the premiere of a specially-commissioned song entitled "Reconciled," by Mona Faith Fant, a member of Center Terrace Church, Canton.

Neil Davis, lay member of Mt. Zion Church, will preach. Richard Brogan, consultant in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead a service of Christian communion.

Participants will give testimonies concerning racial reconciliation in their own lives.

Sammy Agnew is pastor of Mt. Zion Church.

Carson-Newman College to select trustees

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (ABP) — Trustees of Carson-Newman College voted 29-5 on April 17 to change their trustee-selection process, altering the Jefferson City, Tenn., school's relationship to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The trustees, in a called meeting held in executive session, voted to amend the college's charter to allow them to name their own successors. The action takes the selection process out of the hands of the 1.1 million-member Tennessee Baptist Convention, which has nominated and elected the college's trustees since 1919.

The charter amendment returns the 147-year-old institution to its original method of naming trustees. In recent years, many historically Baptist colleges have severed formal ties with sponsoring state conventions.

At a press conference after the meeting, Carson-Newman board members said the change is not intended to distance the school from Tennessee Baptists or its Baptist heritage.

One Carson-Newman trustee, Jay McCluskey, pastor of North Cleveland Church in Cleveland, Tenn., mailed a letter to fellow trustees prior to their April 17 meeting opposing the proposed change.

"Much of the rationale behind the proposal to change the trustee-election format is based on the presumption that the current system of election can no longer be trusted to provide adequate board leadership. Frankly, I see little evidence that the present format has failed to produce a well qualified board of trust," he wrote.

McCluskey said the change was motivated by "a fear that, in the future, those people with a critical agenda toward Carson-Newman College will elect unsuitable candidates to the C-N board."

Other trustees said the action does not lessen the board's commitment to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I want to reiterate the strength of our trustees' commitment to Tennessee Baptists and to remaining true to our Baptist heritage and roots," said Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Church in Chattanooga

and chairman of the college's endowment campaign.

"Never in its 147-year history has Carson-Newman wavered from its relationship with Tennessee Baptists," Steelman said. "We do not intend to do that now."

Stelman said the college did not sever ties with the convention. "In essence, we are the same as we were yesterday — made up of loyal Tennessee Baptists," he said.

"We merely changed the way we elect our trustees so we can better serve the needs of the college," he stressed.

UM withdraws from Nicaragua campus

MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — The University of Mobile (UM) board of trustees voted April 28 to begin a process to withdraw from its five-year-old Latin American branch campus in San Marcos, Nicaragua.

Board officials said the action was taken to better focus on the university's mission and the goals of new UM President Mark Foley.

The Baptist-related school has approximately 2,000 students at its 35-year-old Mobile campus.

Foley, 47, formerly executive vice president of New Orleans Seminary, succeeded Michael Magnoli, whose 13-year presidency of the university was ended by the 46-member trustee body May 13 of last year.

The departure of Magnoli, who had two years remaining in his contract, was hastened by a debt crisis revealed in March 1997 of more than \$3.6 million.

The branch campus in Nicaragua sparked controversy within the Alabama convention over funding procedures.

In 1994, messengers to the annual Alabama Baptist state convention affirmed a convention-university agreement limiting financial support of the university's Latin American Branch Campus in Nicaragua to gifts specifically generated for that campus and funds generated from that campus.

Another part of the agreement required

trustees to return to the Mobile campus about \$2.3 million used to initiate the branch campus in 1993.

Trustees later acknowledged, however, Mobile investments in Nicaragua had grown by \$1 million to more than \$3.3 million.

Currently, the university is working with the Alabama convention in a plan for recovering all convention funds used for the Nicaragua campus.

Last year, the convention gave the university more than \$2 million of its \$32 million Cooperative Program budget.

Foley, in an interview with the Mobile Register published Feb. 13, said he had reviewed the financial problems the university has faced at both its main campus in Mobile and branch campus in Nicaragua.

Of the university's relationship with the Alabama convention, he acknowledged in the newspaper interview, "...there's a lot of relationship-building that's needed in that area. ... We have to be open with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

"What's happened in the past breeds a lot of ill will, mistrust, and hurt. There is no doubt that there's a great deal of healing that needs to be done.

"I intend to win state Baptists' support for the University of Mobile as a whole through demonstrations of financial integrity."

Music Mississippi



Leaders at the Music Mississippi conference at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond were (from left) Joseph Martin of Austin, Tex., concert pianist, arranger, and composer with Shawnee Press; Marty Parks of Madison, with Lillenas Publishing Company and Christ United Methodist Church; Billy Causey, minister of music, Raymond Church, Raymond; and Lew King, minister of music, Wynndale Church, Terry. Next year's Music Mississippi Conference at Eagle Ridge is April 29-May 1, 1999. (Photo by Carl M. White)

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ODLE UPDATE

Editor:

I want to thank you for continuing to send the Baptist Record to my mother, Mabel Odle. It is an excellent way for us to keep up with Mississippi Baptists!

(Editor's note: Mabel Odle is the widow of Joe T. Odle, longtime Miss. pastor and editor of the Baptist Record from 1959-76.)

As mother nears her ninetyeth birthday (June 7), I have reflected much on the almost fifty years she served the Lord in Mississippi. She and daddy had the opportunity to crisscross the state and meet so many wonderful people.

When it became necessary for mother to move to Tennessee, it was my job to prepare her home for sale.

Every closet or filing cabinet I opened held poignant reminders of those blessed years of service. There were stacks of notebooks containing devotional messages. There were drawers filled with cutouts and lessons used in teaching "Intermediates."

There were envelopes overflowing with materials used in Training Union Conferences. There were numerous folders with wonderful ideas for prayer ministries.

I could not count all the materials — manuals, installation services, missionary stories.

In recent days, it has occurred to me that although mother is still able to keep up with Miss. Baptists, some of your readers may have lost touch with her since she left.

Mother is now living in McKendree Village Nursing Home in Hermitage, Tenn. Her physical health is good, but she is no longer able to travel long distances.

If you wish to contact my mother, please send correspondence to me. I know she would love to hear from her Miss. friends.

Sarah O. Maddox
9318 Coboxo Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

PICTURES NEEDED

Editor:

First Church, Kosciusko, will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial this year. A history is being written and several pictures of former pastors are needed.

If anyone has pictures of the following Miss. pastors, please let us know immediately. We will return the pictures as soon as a copy can be made. Pictures needed are: William H. Head; D. H. Dobbs; Gart Johnson; A. H. Booth; John T. Freeman; Walter Compere Lattimore; Ellis M. Jones; J. J. W. Mathis; V. H. Nelson; W. W. Whitfield.

You may call me at (601) 289-6257 or First Church, (601) 289-5575.

Anne Porter
Kosciusko

THANKS FOR PRAYERS

Editor,

It is with a thankful heart that I convey my appreciation to many Mississippi Baptists who prayed for me during my surgery and days of recovery in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

God gave me a special blessing as I knew you were praying and as I felt his answers. There is no way I can adequately tell you how much your prayers meant to me and to Parkes. After a few more days of recovery, I will be functioning at full capacity.

Martha Ellen Marler
Forest

GET ANGRY, NOT MAD

Editor:

In the May 1998 National Liberty Journal was an article titled "Graham Sets Record Straight" where the conservative Christian community expressed outrage that a man of Billy Graham's religious stature would make such inane statements about Bill Clinton's "superior" personality that left women helpless before his charm.

Such statements should be an insult to women to be considered so "bubble headed" that they are helpless before a charming male.

When are people, especially Christians, going to stop being "bubble headed" before the charm of politicians who promise to get our vote, then do not do what they promise.

I believe that it is time for Christians to learn how to be angry without becoming mad.

Madness usually expresses itself in revenge and retaliation,

whereas anger can be a motivation force that causes one to seek to correct a grave wrong.

Anger is not sinful. The Lord became angry and expressed his anger in word and deed.

He called the Pharisees whited sepulchers and children of the devil, hardly politically correct in his day.

He became angry on another occasion and whipped those who desecrated the temple.

I am not saying we solve problems by force, though that is not always wrong; for when violent men resort to violent means there is an individual and societal mandate to respond with the means necessary to protect the public good.

We should stand, and if necessary, take it out of the political hide of those who refuse to listen to our concerns — Republican or Democrat.

Larry Smith, pastor
Hebron Church
Sardis



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I believe most Christians consider homosexual acts are worse than premarital sex or adultery. Why do they feel that way?

Homosexuality is often considered a greater sin because the world perceives it as more abnormal than heterosexual fornication and adultery. Society may rate degrees of sin, but Christians are urged to flee from all sin (1 Cor. 6:18, Heb. 12:1). Each of us struggles against sin, and we must resist the temptation to consider another's sin to be greater than our own. Don't indulge in the fruitless activity of ranking sins. Work instead to understand the root causes of your own sinful behavior, and you'll likely understand why God abhors all sin. Acknowledge your sinfulness to God and ask forgiveness in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ. Rather than pointing fingers, we Christians must be about the business of ministering to those who are struggling with sin and destined for death without the salvation only Jesus can bring.

What's wrong with a little recreational drug use for fun or to relieve everyday stress?

Your voice is the voice of many people today who (1) give in and allow the culture to dictate their conduct, or (2) consider life so tough that drugs are an easy way out. Why don't you try being true to yourself instead of following the crowd? You can color outside the lines without compromising your principles or flirting with lifelong addiction just to have fun or relieve stress. Maintain a strong relationship with God, keep your body clean, and listen to your heart rather than succumbing to peer pressure to do what everyone else is doing. Remember, too, that alcohol, while legal and socially acceptable, is as powerfully addicting as illegal drugs. Say "no" to the worldly activities that create bondage and spiritual death — and "yes" to the Jesus Christ, who brings peace and eternal life.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



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LIFE AND WORK

Family support

Ruth 1:20-22; 2:11-12, 15-16; 4:9-10, 13-16

By Jim Burnett

Human hurt is plentiful these days. Everywhere you turn there is someone suffering. I am reminded of what a lady, who had been bedridden for fourteen years in a nursing home and whose friends and family never visited, said to me: "It's bad to suffer, but suffering alone is the worst."

God in his mercy has given us families to share our burdens with and find strength in. Do you have such a family? Are you being the type of family member in whom your mother, father, brother, sister, and children find assistance and support? Today's lesson encourages families to stick together.

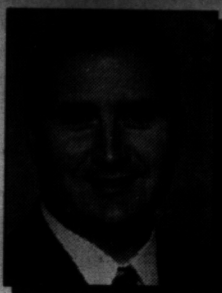
Stay together in times of

trouble (1:20-22).

There is nothing like having a safe haven, a shelter to run to when the winds of difficulty begin to blow your way. God means for our families to be that safe haven and shelter.

Naomi had lost her husband and sons. Ruth had lost her husband. Their experience of grief and loss caused them to gravitate toward one another. And in doing so they found strength to carry on.

Unfortunately, it's in the difficult times of life that families often choose to separate instead of coming together. Let us not make this mistake. Embrace the family God has given you, especially in times of trouble.



Burnett

Help one another (2:11-12, 15-16). Boaz, a relative of Naomi's deceased husband, felt an obligation to help Ruth. He was fully aware of Ruth's sacrifice in leaving her homeland to provide for her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Ruth and Boaz epitomize the appropriate care and concern Christian families should have for one another. In fact, the Apostle Paul warns that to neglect the welfare of kin is to deny the faith (1 Tim. 5:8). Christian families should look for opportunities to help each other, for in doing so, God is glorified.

Act responsibly (4:9-10). Boaz took great initiative in redeeming Ruth and continuing Naomi's husband's name, for he was not the closest relative to Naomi. Therefore, he had to encourage the closest relative to give up his role as kinsman-redeemer.

The custom of kinsman-redeemer is traced back to such passages as Leviticus 25:25-28 and Deuteronomy 25:5-10. This custom allowed a relative to reclaim a family member's property sold to retire debt.

Boaz, without hesitation, assumed his kinsman-redeemer role for Ruth and Naomi. He set an example of how family members should respond toward one another.

Celebrate together in times of joy (4:13-16). Naomi all but thought her life was over with the loss of her husband and sons. But God stepped in and blessed her beyond her wildest dreams. He gave her a grandson. And her joy was restored. Her husband's name survived.

Perhaps you have encountered tragedy like Naomi and are wondering if you will ever have joy again, will you ever recover? My friends, God promises to bring good things out of bad experiences in the lives of his children.

Whether you have lost a spouse or a child, or have recently been diagnosed with cancer, or are currently experiencing turbulence in your marriage, or something else that has left you in bewilderment, there is hope for you in God. Your joy can and will be restored in Christ. Let Jesus lift you above your circumstances. Let him turn your mourning and depression into celebration and jubilation. He did it for Naomi and he can do it for you.

The problem with scores of people today is their distorted perspective on life. They focus on the negatives. Consequently, their problems become magnified and everything is seen through the glasses of doom.

Christians need to count their blessings and name them one by one. Then there will be great cause for celebration.

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Trial and temptations

James 1:2-4, 9-15, 26-27

By Harold W. Simmons

The book of James had a turbulent history in earlier times of the church. Some felt the book was not the work of James but some student of James. Martin Luther thought the book of James was "full of straw" because of the seeming emphasis on works. I think that Luther probably read the book with a prejudiced eye because of his fight with the Roman Church. James has much to say to our lives and to our day.

Rejoicing in trials (1:2-4). Be happy when adverse things happen in our lives? Yes! When

hardships come, we stretch and grow. It is much like exercising. You have heard the saying, "No pain, no gain." The same is true in our spiritual nature. Hardships and trials help us depend more on God not only for answers to the difficulties of life but also for coping with difficulties of life.

God is the redeeming God. He can redeem problems and make them blessings. Paul said the same about his eye problem. God did not take away the eye problem but allowed it to be a blessing in Paul's life.

Poverty and wealth (1:9-11)



Simmons

James shows a contrast between the poor and the rich Christian. The poor Christian can rejoice because he has a new standing. In the church he is somebody with an increased self-esteem.

Muretus said, "Call no man worthless for whom Christ died." The poor Christian is rich in Christ with lasting treasures in heaven.

By contrast, the rich Christian should take pride in his "low estate" because he should realize that he was spiritually bankrupt and Christ paid his debts. The rich were bought with a price — the blood of Christ. Like the vegetation of the earth, the rich will die and take nothing with him.

Rewards of enduring trials (1:12) The person who stands

up under trials is to be congratulated because he/she is a winner. The crown of life is for the one who wins.

The crown is a stephanas. William Barclay tells us this crown is a sign of joy like the crown of flowers worn at weddings. It is the mark of royalty. It is the crown of a winner or victor. It is also the mark of dignity or honor.

The Christian who overcomes trials has a crown that represents joy, that shows he is a member of the royal family of God. He is a victor and receives honor from God.

Danger of yielding to temptation (1:13-15) Conversely, if we do not overcome trials and fall victim to temptation, we cannot blame God for he gave us the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome temptation.

James said not to blame God

for what we do. We must bear the responsibility for our actions and attitudes. He further warns us of what happens to our actions. James traced thoughts and attitudes that are wrong to their full end. He used the analogy of the birth process to express the process. James started with thoughts (conception) to action (birth). Sin is dangerous to our spiritual life.

False and true religion (1:26-27) A modern cliché is: "You have got to walk the walk." I believe that is what James said in these verses. He has argued that we must overcome trials that come. He has told us of the dangers of not overcoming trials. Then he said that true religion would be demonstrated by our actions to back up what we say that we are.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Who's number one

Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45

By Grace Graham

Craving (9:33-37; 10:35-37). Many people crave positions of power and influence. The disciples had some self-centered ambitions and could not understand the idea that the Messiah should be humiliated by his enemies, much less go to the cross.

Jesus and his disciples were walking toward Capernaum. No ancient pupil would dare walk next to his teacher and the width of the path would probably not allow it. As they walked in a line behind the master, they were deep in discussion. Once they stopped, Jesus asked what they had been discussing on the way.

The disciples were not too excited about giving an answer, for they had argued with one another about who of them was

the greatest. It is interesting to note, that Jesus waited until they were in the privacy of the home to rebuke them.

Jesus, sitting down, told them the whole key to his life. "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." Jesus came not to be served but to serve.

Another illustration follows. Calling a child to him, Jesus began to teach. He may have been making the point that there should be a willingness to serve all, even a little child. The parallel passage in Matthew says that whoever would humble himself as a small child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

James and John wanted Jesus to promise that one would sit at his right and the



Graham

other at his left in glory. It was not a desire to be close to Jesus but to have a high position in the new kingdom. They were motivated by ambition not loyalty.

Caution (10:38-40). What price would the ambition of James and John demand? Do we truly understand what it will cost to reach our goals?

There was great irony in their request. Who actually was on his right and left at the moment of his triumph? Two crucified criminals. This is the picture of what it means to share his cup and his baptism.

The cup is an Old Testament symbol of suffering, especially enduring the wrath of God. Baptism is also an Old Testament symbol of suffering. Jesus' acceptance of John's baptism may have been acceptance of judgement on behalf of sinful humanity. Both baptism and the cup at the Lord's Supper are symbols which remind us of

the cost of following Christ; the servant will also be as the master in suffering.

The reaction of the disciples further indicated that they could not understand the meaning of their request nor Jesus' response. With a very self confident spirit, the two replied "we are able." Jesus assured them that the price they will indeed pay. Not the price of Christian greatness, but the price of following at all.

Conflict (10:41). The other ten showed their spiritual shallowness by being indignant at the ambition of the two. They were probably just as ambitious for a high position. Jesus took this opportunity to again tell them the way to greatness in his kingdom.

Challenge (10:42-45). What is the world's idea of exercising lordship? Should it be to have control over others? Jesus said that for his followers this is not so. It is the ministering to one's fellow man that marks greatness.

Jesus' own dedication to helping and loving is a perfect example of a life of unselfish ministry. He emptied himself, stooping to lowly manhood to become a servant; one who puts others' need before his own.

He not only came to serve, but to give his life as a ransom for many. This phrase is rich in meaning. The "son of man" idea is found in Psalms, Ezekiel, and Daniel and has been connected to the servant idea in Isaiah.

Both ideas are put together with the Old Testament concept of "ransom." Even "for many" is a reminder of Isaiah 53:11-12. He gathers all of these concepts together to explain the full meaning of his Messiahship.

What is your standard of greatness? What can you do today that would indicate a standard of greatness based upon servanthood? Be great in God's kingdom. Minister to others.

Graham is Childhood Education Director at First Church, Gulfport.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for

Bibliocipher

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V XBO MOAXB VP XBO
SGNBOY LVXB VP XBO
KGYMVZ RCM DCVK-
EOMQO VP QVM! BVK
WCYORSNBRLEQ RSO
BGY FWMQZOCXY, RCM
BGY KRTY ARYX
PGCMGCQ VWX!

SVZRCY OEOUOC:

XBGSXT-XBSOO

Clue: W = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight Nine.

'Business as usual' not meeting growth rate

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Although the number of new Christians worldwide is growing at a record pace, the growth is hardly keeping up with birth rates. No matter how fast missionaries add new churches, the number of people without Christ grows just as fast.

"Business as usual just isn't getting the job done," said David Garrison, associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB).

"Evangelical missionaries are incrementally increasing the number of new believers, but we are only barely keeping pace with population growth rates. Meanwhile, millions of lost men and women live and die without ever having an opportunity to respond to God's love and grace," he said.

So missions strategists began to ask, "What's it going to take to get the job done?" Garrison finds the answer in "church planting movements," stirrings of God's spirit that have resulted in explosive church growth.

He cites examples like a country in Southeast Asia where the number of Baptist churches jumped from five to 120 in just four years, and India, where 1,000 new congregations were started in three years in an area where no churches existed before.

"We see God at work in various places around the world where churches are springing up and multiplying in phenomenal displays of his power and grace," Garrison said. "When we study these church planting movements, we see they have some common characteristics."

Explosive church growth can happen when a missionary concentrates on mentoring local evangelists and multiplying a vision for starting many new churches, Garrison said. The missionary emphasizes lay leadership and low-overhead meeting places that can be duplicated easily, as opposed to expensive buildings and highly trained leadership, which can stymie church growth.

This insight has led IMB leaders to place a higher priority on one type of missionary urgently sought for overseas assignment: the strategy coordinator.

The idea of the strategy coordinator is not new. It was developed over the last 10 years as an approach to introducing the gospel to ethnic people groups with little



WHO CARES? — The 15 million Bihari Muslims of South Asia needed a "church planting movement," a massive stirring of the Holy Spirit that will draw thousands of them to Christ. So Southern Baptists sent a "strategy coordinator," who mentors local evangelists and multiplies a vision for starting many new churches. Fully half of the positions on the International Mission Board's latest list of the 50 most urgently needed new personnel are strategy coordinators. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

or no access to the gospel. The strategy coordinator's success in starting rapid church growth led IMB leaders to place greater emphasis on the role.

Fully half of the positions on the board's latest list of 50 most urgently needed new missionaries are for strategy coordinators.

"The strategy coordinator focuses on a people group and is empowered to design and implement a strategy to reach that people group with the gospel," Garrison said. "The strategy coordinator isn't doing the job himself but leading a team of church planters, Bible translators, gospel broadcasters, literacy missionaries, and health and relief workers."

The increased emphasis on strategy coordinators doesn't mean the board is moving away from traditional church planters and evangelists, Garrison added.

"We're not moving away from an incarnational model where people go and plant their lives among a people and identify with them," he said. "We're putting a one-two punch in place, where a church planting team is supported by someone who is coordinating resources to enable that ministry to take place."

"The strategy-coordinator method is bringing the gospel to millions of unreached people around the world today. The vision is nothing less than a church planting movement that would take the gospel to every man, woman, and child in a people group before they spend an eternity without Christ."

For information on specific requests for new missionaries, contact IMB by sending an e-mail to initial.contacts@imb.org or by calling (888) 422-6461.

Reccord to recommend 'minor tweaks' at NAMB

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Trustees of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) will consider changes to the agency's organizational structure which will bring that framework "more in line with the agency's strategic plan," according to Bob Reccord, NAMB president.

"NAMB's organizational structure was created last year almost in a vacuum, knowing that some adjustments would be necessary," Reccord told NAMB employees April 13. "Now that we have developed a solid strategic direction, we must have a structure that allows us to be more effective. That's what these proposed changes are all about."

NAMB was created last year as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's restructuring of its national agencies.

The resources and most of

the ministry assignments of the former Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission were assigned to NAMB.

Reccord assured the nearly 200 employees gathered in Alpharetta, Ga., as well as the agency's approximately 70 staff in Fort Worth, Texas, who participated in the meeting via live teleconference, that internally the proposed changes are "minor tweaks."

Only about 10 people will even change their immediate supervisor, Reccord said.

The proposal, which will be presented to the agency's trustees at their meeting in Fort Worth, calls for three primary changes:

◆ The media technology center located in Fort Worth will be elevated from department level to that of a vice presidential group.

◆ The volunteer mobilization team will be moved to the vice presidential group led by Nate Adams called Mobilization and Mission Education.

◆ The agency's business services, including financial affairs, will be under the supervision of Michael Day, vice president of strategy and business services.

Reccord announced he will recommend David Clark, currently executive director of NAMB's Fort Worth media operation, as vice president of the new broadcast communications group.

Clark headed a Christian media consulting firm prior to joining NAMB last June.

Ernest Kelley, formerly vice president of business services, will become special assistant to the president with assignment to enhance partnerships in new

work areas, particularly Alaska, the Northwest, and Canada.

Kelley, with nearly 25 years experience in home missions, served as the interim president of the former Home Mission Board prior to its dissolution.

Carlos Ferrer, formerly NAMB's comptroller, will assume additional responsibilities as NAMB's chief financial officer. Ferrer joined the HMB in 1992.

Reccord also assured the staff this would not be the last organizational change for Southern Baptists' newest agency.

"We cannot allow ourselves to get in comfort zones that are unproductive," he said.

"We must be willing to constantly change in order to meet the changing needs of our partner churches, associations, state conventions, and sister agencies."